

SMINTHURINUS BÖRNER, 1901 (INSECTA, COLLEMBOLA):
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH GENERALLY ACCUSTOMED USAGE. Z.N.(S.) 1954

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The genus *Sminthurinus* was twice described by Börner in 1901. In the first-published paper two species were expressly stated to belong to the genus. Both species are now included in the genus *Arrhopalites* Börner, 1906, one of them even being the type-species of that genus. Clearly, *Arrhopalites* should fall as a junior synonym of *Sminthurinus*.

However, Börner selected in 1906 a type-species for *Sminthurinus* which was not included in the genus in the first publication. This designation, although invalid, has been accepted by all subsequent taxonomists. *Sminthurinus* and *Arrhopalites* are now two large, widely distributed genera; the last genus is type of the tribe Arrhopalitini Stach.

As strict application of the rules would in this case severely upset stability, the Commission is requested to designate as type-species for *Sminthurinus* that species selected by Börner in 1906, taking into consideration the following facts.

1. The genus *Sminthurinus* was described by Börner for the first time in *Zool. Anz.* 24(645) : 343-345 on 10 June 1901. Two species were referred to the genus, viz. *binoculatus* n. sp., from a cave in Westfalen, and *caecus* (Tullberg). A type-species was not designated. In the explanation of fig. 7, but only there, Börner used the combination *Sminthurinus binoculatus* n.g.n.sp. Taking the Code literally (Art. 68 a i) this must be taken as a type designation.

2. *Sminthurinus* was described once again as a new genus by Börner in his paper "Zur Kenntnis der Apterygoten-Fauna von Bremen und der Nachbardistrikte", in the *Abh. naturw. Ver. Bremen* 17(1) : 99-104. According to the index of the volume, fascicle I was published October 1901. Page I bears an infra-paginal note "Mai 1901-XVII, 1". Such a mark is repeated every 16 pages with dates up to "Juli 1901" and with rising arabic sheet numbers. Evidently these are printer's notes, not related to the date of publication.

This time five species were included in the genus viz. *caecus* (Tullberg), *niger* (Lubbock), *aureus* (Lubbock), *rex* (Uzel) and *binoculatus* n. sp. As this last species did not come from the vicinity of Bremen it was merely mentioned and a foot-note added (p. 100) : "Die Beschreibung dieser wie einiger anderer neuer Arten aus westfälischen Höhlen wird demnächst im "Zoologischen Anzeiger" erfolgen". A type was not designated.

3. It is clear that it was Börner's intention to publish the above mentioned papers in a reversed order. The diagnosis of *Sminthurinus* in the first-mentioned paper was merely to elucidate the position of the new species *binoculatus*.

4. In 1906 Börner (*Mitt. naturh. Mus. Hamburg* 23 : 182) selected as type-species of *Sminthurinus* the species *niger* (Lubbock). As this species is not expressly referred to the genus in the first publication, this selection is invalid (Articles 67 h, 69 a i). However, this designation has never been disputed, and

all taxonomists have worked with the concept of *Sminthurinus* centred around *niger* (Lubbock).

Sminthurinus niger is a common, well described species. A neotype has been fixed by Gisin, 1963 : 78.

5. In the same publication (*Mitt. naturh. Mus. Hamburg* 23: 182 (1906)) Börner created the genus *Arrhopalites* designating *A. caecus* (Tullberg) as the type-species. Of the two species originally included in *Sminthurinus* one thus is the type-species of *Arrhopalites*, whereas the second species, viz. *binoculatus*, equally belongs to that genus. It follows, that strict application of the rules results in *Arrhopalites* being either an objective or a subjective junior synonym of *Sminthurinus*.

6. Both genera are cosmopolitan in their distribution, and include a large number of species, some of which are quite common. The genus *Arrhopalites* is of some importance, as it contains a number of highly specialized cavernicolous species, and is type-genus of the tribe Arrhopalitini Stach, 1956. The genus *Sminthurinus* belongs to the tribe Katiannini Börner, 1913.

The synonymy of *Arrhopalites* and *Sminthurinus* would cause serious disturbance in nomenclature and upset a fifty-years old usage.

7. The genus name *Smynturella* Houlbert, 1924 (p. 157), is expressly stated to be a replacement name for *Sminthurinus* and takes ipso facto the same type as that genus.

In consideration of the reasons presented above, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of a type-species for the genus *Sminthurinus* Börner, 1901, made prior to the proposed ruling and, having done so, to designate as the type-species of that genus the species *Smynturus niger* Lubbock, 1868;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Sminthurinus* Börner, 1901, (gender masculine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Smynturus niger* Lubbock, 1868;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the specific name *niger* Lubbock, 1868, as published in the binomen *Smynturus niger* (type-species of *Sminthurinus* Börner, 1901);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the generic name *Smynturella* Houlbert, 1924 (a junior objective synonym of *Sminthurinus* Börner, 1901).

LITERATURE CITED

- BÖRNER, C. 1901. Über einige theilweise neue Collembolen aus den Höhlen der Gegend von Letmathe in Westfalen. *Zool. Anz.* 24(645) : 333-345.
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